

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RECEIVED

In re Patent Application of

JAN 16 2003

T. SAKURAI et al

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Serial No. 09/179,188

Group Art Unit: 1651

Filed: October 27, 1998

Examiner: D. Naff

For: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR THE RECOVERY OF NUCLEIC ACIDS

25/D
M.G.
2/4/03REPLYCommissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

January 8, 2003

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action mailed July 8, 2002, please amend the above application as follows. A petition and fee for a three-month Extension of Time accompany this Reply.

IN THE CLAIMS

Rewrite claims 20 and 25-32 as follows:

sub E' 7
D' 20. (Amended) A method for recovering a nucleic acid from a nucleic acid-bearing material, which comprises the steps of:

E releasing a nucleic acid from a nucleic acid-bearing material and forming an aqueous solution containing the released nucleic acid.